

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 3-5, 7-10, 14-21 and 25 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 3-5, 7-10, 14-21 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 7, 10, 14, 17-21 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 4-5, 8-9 and 15-16 depend from one of the above noted allowable claims. All pending claims are thus allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 2, 6, 11-13 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamaki (U.S. Publication No. 2002-0161495). Claims 1-2, 6, 11-13 and 22-24 have been canceled. As noted above, all of the pending claims are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions

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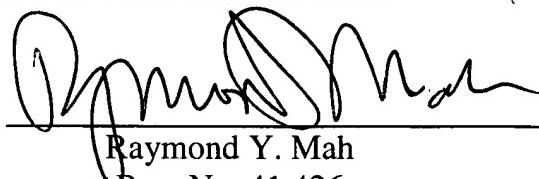
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or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



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